

REMARKS

Claims 26-34 are presented for consideration, with Claims 26, 29 and 32 being independent.

The independent claims have been amended to further distinguish Applicant's invention from the cited art.

Claims 26-34 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as allegedly being obvious over Aoyama '094. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 26 of Applicant's invention relates to an image reproducing apparatus capable of outputting an image of an object, picked up by a camera unit, to a display device. The apparatus includes a storage device to store images of a plurality of objects, together with information of direction of the camera unit, wherein the direction is determined on the basis of the positional relation between the image reproducing apparatus and the camera unit, and includes a first direction and a second direction, with the object to be picked up in the first direction and the object to be picked up in the second direction being different from each other, and a reproducing device to reproduce a plurality of images picked up by the camera unit, to output the plurality of images to the display device. In addition, a reproducing control device controls reproduction by the reproducing device so as to reproduce a group of images picked up by the camera unit, wherein directions of the group of images are the same as one of the first direction and the second direction, among the plurality of images stored in the storage device, in accordance with the information of direction of the camera unit.

As will be appreciated, Claim 26 has been amended to include the storage device for storing images and information of the direction of the camera unit. Support for the claim amendments can be found, for example, beginning on page 4, line 21 of the specification. In accordance with Applicant's claimed invention, a group of stored images can be effectively reproduced in accordance with direction information.

Claims 29 and 32 relate to an image reproducing method and a storage medium, respectively, and correspond to Claim 26. These claims have been amended in a corresponding manner to Claim 26, and thus include the features of storing a plurality of objects, together with information of direction of the camera unit.

The patent to Aoyama relates to an apparatus for checking a defect in a pattern formed on, for example, a mask, reticle or printed substrate (or the like). As shown in Figure 1, an object 2 to be checked has a check pattern P formed on its surface, and a camera 3 picks up the check pattern P. The check pattern data is compared with master pattern data to detect a defect (see Figure 6).

In contrast to Applicant's claimed invention, however, Aoyama does not teach or suggest, among other features, storing a plurality of objects together with information of direction of the camera unit, with the direction being determined based on the positional relation between the image reproducing apparatus and the camera unit and including a first direction and a second direction different from each other. It follows, then, that Aoyama also fails to control reproduction so as to reproduce a group of picked up images from the plurality of objects, such that the directions of the group of images are the same as one of the first or second directions,

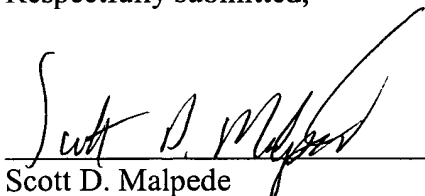
among the plurality of stored images, in accordance with the information direction of the camera unit. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. §103 is respectfully requested.

Therefore, it is submitted that Applicant's invention as set forth in independent Claims 26, 29 and 32 is patentable over the cited art. In addition, dependent Claims 27, 28, 30, 31, 33 and 34 set forth additional features of Applicant's invention. Independent consideration of the dependent claims is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and allowance of this application is deemed to be in order and such action is respectfully requested.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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